

**KENNETH E. PUZDER, CPA****Senior Financial Executive | Business Development | Accounting | Operations**

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770-722-0519 | [kpuzder@gmail.com](mailto:kpuzder@gmail.com)**Professional Summary**

Accomplished financial executive with 20+ years of experience in business development, accounting, and financial leadership. Expertise in operational strategy, SEC reporting, budgeting, corporate restructuring, and compliance. Adept at driving financial performance, improving operational efficiencies, and leading cross-functional teams. Strong communication skills with a demonstrated ability to build partnerships across organizations.

**Core Competencies**

- Capital Raising & Investor Relations
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Business Development & Strategic Planning
- SEC Reporting & Compliance
- Corporate Restructuring & Integration
- Budgeting & Financial Analysis
- Risk Management & Legal Compliance
- ERP Implementation & Process Optimization

**Professional Experience****LAND FARM GAME, LLC | Delray Beach, FL***Senior Executive, Manager, CFO**Jan 2019 – April 2025***Portfolio Companies:**

- **V1 Financial Technologies, LLC (CFO)** – Fintech company focused on private aviation.
- **Three Apples Entertainment, LLC (Member/Manager)** – Hospitality & entertainment business.
- **Phyto Labs, LLC (CFO)** – Investments in agro-industrial research and development.
- **Atlantic Hills, LLC – DBA Superior Street Motor Sports (CFO)** – Specialized custom golf carts.
- **Dragon Fruit Ranch, LLC (CFO)** – Dragon fruit farming and product sales.
- **Exactus, Inc. (EXDI) (2019 – 2021) (CFO & Board Member)** – Public company focused on the hemp industry (farming, product development, retail, and wholesale sales).

**THE LUKENS GROUP, LLC | Stuart, FL***Co-Founder, Managing Member, Board Member, CFO**Dec 2014 – Sep 2016*

- Co-founded and led a behavioral therapy firm specializing in PTSD, addiction recovery, and mental health services.
- Managed business development, fundraising, and investor relations.
- Led compliance efforts, financial management, and legal affairs.
- Implemented KIPU EMR system for operational efficiency.

**KENNETH E. PUZDER CONSULTING | Fort Lauderdale, FL***President**Jan 2007 – Dec 2018*

- Provided financial leadership and strategic advisory services for companies undergoing mergers, acquisitions, and restructuring.
- Assisted in taking six power plants public (S-1 filing) for a major public utility.
- Led financial business plan evaluation and turnaround efforts for a \$250M security company, a \$120M restaurant chain, and an \$800M roofing supply company.
- Served as interim CFO for multiple companies, optimizing financial strategy and operations.

**ARBY'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC. | Atlanta, GA / Minneapolis, MN***Chief Financial Officer, AFA Service Corporation**Jul 2004 – Dec 2006*

- Reorganized financial reporting, aligning it with corporate goals and enhancing financial analysis.
- Developed a new budget model, enabling better financial oversight across divisions.
- Negotiated key contracts in marketing, branding, and operations, improving cost efficiency.

*VP, Accounting & Finance, Arby's Restaurant Group**Oct 2005 – Dec 2006*

- Spearheaded ERP system selection and Oracle implementation.
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Managed financial integration efforts following mergers and acquisitions.

*Regional Controller, RTM, Inc. (subsidiary of Arby's Restaurant Group)**Jul 2003 – July 2004*

- Directed all Accounting, Finance, Financial Analysis, IT, Risk Management, Contracts, Debt Financing, and Treasury functions for a \$200M regional operation of RTM, Inc.
- Streamlined budgeting and reporting processes, enhancing efficiency and clarity.
- Managed financial strategy, budgeting, and forecasting, delivering semi-annual financial updates to the Board.
- Built and led a high-performing Regional Finance team.

**PANERA BREAD COMPANY (PNRA) | St. Louis, MO***VP, Accounting Operations, Controller & Treasurer**Aug 2000 – Apr 2003*

- Developed financial infrastructure, supporting rapid expansion from 260 to 480 units and \$744M in revenue.
- Implemented corporate tax strategies, yielding substantial long-term savings.

*President and Board Member, Panera Enterprises**Dec 2000 – Apr 2003*

- Established and incorporated Panera Enterprises, a debt service subsidiary of Panera Bread Company, with operations in Nassau, Bahamas.
- Managed legal, compliance, and operational infrastructure.
- Served as a Board Member from inception through April 2003.

**THE LINDNER FUNDS / LINDNER ASSET MANAGEMENT | St. Louis, MO***VP & Secretary, Lindner Funds**Mar 1999 – Aug 2000*

- Oversaw compliance, accounting, budgeting, and customer service for a mutual fund family managing approximately \$4 billion in assets, including Income, Growth, Market Neutral, Bond, and Money Market Funds.
- Reported directly to the Board of Directors, delivering financial results quarterly and ensuring regulatory adherence.
- Managed daily NAV publication and maintained financial reporting integrity.

*Financial Operations Principal & Assistant Secretary, Lindner Asset Management**Mar 1998 – Aug 2000*

- Served as Chief Compliance Officer, successfully navigating two consecutive SEC audits with no reportable conditions.
- Led annual audits, achieving the firm's first consecutive years without management comments.
- Oversaw financial operations and compliance for the asset management firm before promotion to Vice President.

**KPMG PEAT MARWICK, LLP | St. Louis, MO***Audit Manager**Feb 1996 – Mar 1998*

- Built and expanded the firm's Real Estate Practice, securing multiple client engagements.
- Led audits for brokerage firms, insurance companies, and capital accounts.

**MILLS GROUP, INC. | St. Louis, MO***Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer**Jul 1991 – Feb 1996*

- Led financial strategy and corporate restructuring for Mills Group, Inc., a diversified real estate enterprise with subsidiaries spanning property management, brokerage, stock trading, construction, private equity, and vending operations.
- Spearheaded corporate debt reorganization, treasury management, and working capital optimization, enhancing financial stability.
- Oversaw the launch of Mills Realty, The Vulture Fund, and Mills Vending, while reinstating The B. Mills Corporation, serving as FINOP with Series 27 and 63 qualifications.
- Directed the successful restructuring of Mills Group, Inc., averting bankruptcy and restoring financial viability.

*Pantheon Corporation**Controller**Jun 1990 – Jul 1991*

- Led post-merger integration and financial restructuring following the acquisition of Pantheon Corporation by Mills Group, Inc.
- Reorganized treasury functions, purchase accounting, construction accounting, and project financial modeling to improve efficiency and accuracy.
- Implemented an ERP conversion and financial realignment, streamlining operations and reducing accounting staff from 30 to 10 while maintaining operational effectiveness.

**Education & Certifications**

- **B.S., Accounting** – University of Missouri – St. Louis (Cum Laude, 1990)
- **Certified Public Accountant (CPA) – Missouri & Florida**
- **Certified Forensic Accountant** – Deloitte & Touche, 1996
- **Public Speaking Certificate** – Speech Works, 2003

**Leadership & Board Memberships**

- Co-Founder, Board Member & Treasurer – The Lukens Foundation, Inc. (2015 – Present)
- Past Treasurer – Insurance Accounting and Systems Association (1999)
- Board Member and Chief Financial Officer – Phylogenesis, LLC (2021 – 2024)